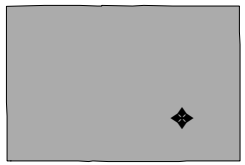
Pueblo Chemical Depot

BRAC 1988

Size: 23,121 acres
Mission: Store chemical munitions
HRS Score: 78.00
IAG Status: None
Contaminants: Heavy metals, petroleum/oil/lubricants, VOCs, SVOCs, pesticides, explosives, PCBs, and UXO
Media Affected: Groundwater and soil
Funding to Date: $70.2 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): $79.2 million (FY2015)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for BRAC Sites: FY2015



Pueblo, Colorado

Restoration Background

In December 1988, the BRAC Commission recommended realignment of the Pueblo Depot Activity, primarily because of chemical demilitarization activities. The commission recommended relocating the supply mission and the ammunition mission to other installations. In October 1996, the Army placed Pueblo Depot Activity under the Chemical and Biological Defense Command and changed the name to Pueblo Chemical Depot.

Investigations identified sites such as a landfill, open burning and detonation grounds, an ordnance and explosives waste area, lagoons, former building sites, oil-water separators, a TNT washout facility and discharge system, and hazardous waste storage units. Heavy metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are the primary contaminants affecting groundwater and soil at the installation.

Between FY89 and FY94, the Army conducted RCRA Facility Investigations (RFIs) and corrective measures studies (CMSs) for 45 solid waste management units (SWMUs). In FY94, the installation formed a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and a BRAC cleanup team (BCT). The installation also completed a final CERFA report.

Also in FY94, the community formed a Local Redevelopment Authority, which prepared and approved a land reuse plan. In cooperation with the local Pueblo Depot Activity Development Authority (PDADA), the installation prepared a master lease that allows subleasing of parts of the property.

In FY95, the installation constructed a groundwater extraction and treatment system to remediate, and prevent the off-site migration of, contaminated groundwater. An alternative drinking water supply was provided to a residence adjacent to the installation that could be affected by contamination. The installation submitted draft RFI work plans for 14 SWMUs, completed a Phase II RFI for 13 SWMUs, and submitted an RFI report for 8 SWMUs. Nine SWMUs were determined to require no further action.

In FY96, the installation conducted cleanup and removal of TNT washout buildings and identified the source of TNT by-products in an off-post spring. The installation developed Team Pueblo to coordinate public involvement in restoration and cleanup activities.

In FY97, the Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) and the finding of suitability to lease (FOSL) were completed for 74 buildings. These buildings were turned over to PDADA for reuse. The installation and the state resolved all Consent Order issues, including reducing a $10 million fine to $500,000. Soil removal at TNT washout lagoons began, and the soil is being stored for future bioremediation. The installation developed the depot master plan and schedule for reuse and presented it to the RAB. Demolition of TNT buildings, clearance of unexploded ordnance (UXO), removal of the deactivation incinerator and 6 underground storage tanks (USTs), decontamination of 2 buildings, and demolition of 28 structures also occurred.

The BCT was involved in scheduling, setting SWMU priorities, and making reuse environmental determinations.

FY98 Restoration Progress

The installation completed soil removal at the TNT washout lagoons and is storing soil in a permitted unused existing building. The installation is preparing another unused existing building for soil bioremediation. A pilot study was completed at the landfill to locate hot spots, and a large amount of VOCs was removed. A temporary groundwater filter unit was installed at Circuli Springs to remove TNT contamination from a clean drinking water source.

An EBS and a FOSL were completed for 764 buildings and for two other key buildings. These buildings have been turned over to PDADA for reuse, giving PDADA approximately 850 buildings for sublease. UXO work continues to focus on reuse and investigation. Per the reuse plan, wildlife and recreation areas are being considered for the Colorado Chico Basin Wildlife Area.

The RAB received risk assessment training and is electing new officers. The installation presented the Technical Assistance for Public Participation program to the RAB. The installation worked closely with the state and EPA to develop priorities and project schedules. The BCT is revising the BRAC Cleanup Plan (BCP) and the final reuse cleanup standards.

Plan of Action

- Continue bioremediation of 21,000 cubic yards of TNT-contaminated soil in FY99
- Continue hot spot removals at the landfill in FY99
- Continue EBS and FOSL and building cleanups on remaining buildings for reuse in FY99
- Revisit possibility of early property transfer for unused property not required by chemical weapon destruction in FY99
- Complete cleanup of 700 ammunition buildings and demolition of 180 series buildings in FY99
- Simplify and condense the installationwide groundwater monitoring and sampling program in FY99
- Complete Version 3 of the BCP in FY99
- Delete five SWMUs from the RCRA Part B Permit in FY99
- Conduct independent Technical Review in FY99

Sites Achieving RIP or RC Per Fiscal Year